

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-22 were previously pending in the application. Claims 4-5 are canceled; claim 1 is amended; and new claim 23 is added herein. Assuming the entry of this amendment, claims 1-3 and 6-23 are now pending in the application. The Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

Claims 14-22 are allowed. In paragraph 2, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 6, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Allen. In paragraph 4, the Examiner rejected claims 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allen. In paragraph 5, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 6-8, and 10-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Vieth. In paragraph 8, the Examiner objected to claims 4 and 5 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. For the following reasons, the Applicant submits that all now-pending claims are allowable over the cited references.

Claim 1 is amended to include the recitations of original claim 5 and, as such, is equivalent to original claim 5 rewritten in independent form. Since original claim 5 was indicated as allowable, the Applicant submits that claim 1 is allowable. Since claims 2-3 and 6-13 depend variously from claim 1, it is further submitted that those claims are also allowable.


New claim 23 is equivalent to original claim 4 rewritten in independent form. Since original claim 4 was indicated as allowable, the Applicant submits that new claim 23 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant submits that the rejections of claims under §§ 102 and 103 have been overcome.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes that the now-pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant believes that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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